

The Times - Dispatch
DAILY - WEEKLY - SUNDAY

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1910.

PIE AS A CLUB.

The breach in the ranks of the Republican party seems to be widening, and now it is reported that the President has deliberately put the axe into it. He will withhold patronage, vulgarly known as pie, from the so-called insurgent Congressmen. On his behalf National Committeeman Victor Rosewater explains that the President fully recognizes the old-line custom which makes the recommendation of a Congressman decisive in regard to certain appointments in his district, but he feels that this entails a reciprocal obligation. Withholding the question instantly arises as to what is the nature of the obligation which rests upon the Congressman, in return for which he may fairly claim his patronage. We suppose that everybody will agree that it is to support the policies and program of the President. But this, we are told, is exactly what the insurgents propose to do. One of them, Representative Madison, of Kansas, says the insurgent band is "unanimously, I believe, in favor of every leading reform to which the President and the Republican party are committed." Why, then, should the President explode a bomb under their feet?

These men are not fighting their party, but the enemies of their party. They are fighting the very men and the very principles which the country, Republican and Democrat alike, would like to see the President fighting. When the executive strikes at the insurgents he is lending aid and comfort to the reactionaries. To withhold patronage from the former is to play the game of Cannon and Aldrich more effectively than they could play it for themselves. Political pull, postmasterhips and the like, pull a powerful stroke with the folks back home. The Congressman who can "get things" is oftentimes valued above the Congressman who stands for noble principles, but returns from the counter empty-handed. If the insurgents should be systematically cut off in this way, they would be weakened vastly in their districts. Some of them would doubtless be defeated for reelection. Some of them perhaps would surrender. All of them would be plinned and labeled as impressive objections of the principle that it is not safe to raise a hand against Aldrich, Cannon and oppressive House rules.

There has virtually been no legislation under the Taft administration so far except the tariff law. The President will hardly say that the insurgents fought and opposed him there. On the contrary, it is a matter of public record that they fought steadily and bravely to redeem the personal pledges which the President had given during his canvass for votes. Why not wait to punish them for being anti-Taft? What is the object or purpose of hitting them at this early stage of proceedings? Whatever such object or purpose might be, it does not seem possible that the effect could be other than to bring the immense prestige and power of the administration to the assistance of just those men and those elements which least deserve assistance.

PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE WORK.

From first to last, from the discovery of the flames to the detailed reporting of the whole event in the columns of this paper, prompt and effective work was the memorable feature of the fire which destroyed the University College of Medicine building early yesterday morning. Rarely was there a worse night for a disaster and dangerous fire, and never did the fire department and all hands concerned do better work. A fire in or near a hospital is apt to be a heart-breaking affair even under the best of conditions, and these conditions were of the worst imaginable. But because help at once poured in from every quarter, official and unofficial, and because this help was as intelligent as it was immediate, the hospital was saved and all the sufferers were safely carried over the icy streets to nearby refuges. The college building was doomed from the beginning, and its loss is a heavy one. But we have to thank Chief Joyner and his stalwart men, and their unofficial helpers in the hospital and out of it, that the damage was not much more serious and that no human lives were lost.

The University College of Medicine building is destroyed, but not the University College of Medicine. A particularly notable feature of its bereavement was the prompt offer of practical assistance from President Boatwright of Richmond College, and Dean Christopher Tompkins, of the Medical College of Virginia. The attitude of the latter college has helped to crystallize the thought that in everybody's mind from the moment it was known that the plant of the other institution was gone. Out of the ashes of the University College building there may grow a greater medical

school than Richmond has yet possessed, a consolidated school whose powers for usefulness will be decidedly greater than the sum of two divided and competing institutions could ever have. This is a consummation which the community has long devoutly desired, and thus, as often in this world, blessing may grow out of adversity.

POINTS ABOUT THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S PRIMARY BILL.

Within ten days the primary has become the liveliest topic in Virginia. It is now certain that the primary law to which the Democratic party is committed will precipitate a very vigorous fight in the coming Legislature. On one side we shall have the bill independently prepared by Speaker Byrd, not perfect, doubtless, but enlightened, explicit, straightforward and thoroughgoing. On the other side we shall have the vest-pocket bill put together at the last moment by the subcommittee of the Democratic State Committee. The Byrd bill has won many friends throughout the State, though one or two points in it have come in for sharp attack. We shall await with profound interest the opinion of the State on the offering of the Democratic subcommittee.

The Times-Dispatch considers that the subcommittee's bill is bad as far as it goes and entirely inadequate in that it fails to go anywhere near far enough. Two points that are positively bad were explained in this paper yesterday. They are:

1. Giving the appointment of primary election officers to the local party committees, which is to say to the local machines or bosses, wherever or if ever, such things exist. This provision, though it is fair to say that it reproduces the terms of the party plan of 1904, is in just the opposite direction from that in which progressive primary legislation ought to move. 2. Putting into the hands of State, county, city or district committees the power to decide whether nominations in any given case shall be by direct primary or nominating conventions. As affecting all State Democratic nominations, this provision deliberately authorizes by law disobedience to the existing party declaration in favor of the primaries and so seems meant to prepare the way for a reversal of that declaration.

Beyond these points of positive badness, this bill is entirely incomplete and defective, chiefly in that:

3. It fails to provide for a State or county or city or district-paid primary. Pay of the primary officers, it is true, provided, but no provision at all is made for paying for necessary stationery and supplies, rent of polling places and those other necessary expenditures of which the Byrd bill names a long list. 4. It fails to fix any limitation on the expenditures of candidates. 5. It fails to provide or authorize any machinery for the making of platforms.

6. It fails to determine whether plurality or majority nominations shall be the lawful rule. It will, of course, be answered by admirers of the committee bill that these and various other omissions are made in order to leave all political parties free to frame their own rules, as provided by section 6. But to our mind this is no answer at all. The purpose of a primary law is to eliminate the fluctuating, variegated wishes of parties or party committees and to give to the details of popular nominations the same rigid, exact and permanent statutory form which elections now have. The instruction of the Roanoke convention "to throw legal safeguards about primaries" is quite broad enough to give the committee all the freedom necessary to do this. At least Mr. Byrd, deemed an excellent constitutional lawyer and certainly perfectly familiar with everything that was said or done at Roanoke, has appeared to think so.

The enactment of the subcommittee bill, or of one anything like it, will in no sense satisfy the demand in Virginia for a sound and comprehensive primary law. But that demand, now fairly started, will not down until it is satisfied. We shall certainly have a real primary law here some day. And when that law comes, though it may not be the Byrd bill, it will be one far more like it than anything else that has yet been offered us.

A POOR EQUALIZATION PLAN.

The Senate Finance Committee is treading on dangerous ground in considering the equalization of taxes from the Auditor's office. Of course the members of the committee are sincere in their desire to reduce the evils of unequal assessments and are properly anxious to do this at a minimum cost. But, as a matter of fact, they are tampering with the most expensive and most inefficient of all devices when they seriously consider having the county assessors' books verified by the Auditor's clerks on the evidence of recorded properly transfers in that county.

The poor economy of this scheme is manifest. Paperly to make these comparisons and verifications would, we believe, require the full time of almost as many clerks as the Auditor now has. If new men were employed they would hardly cost the State less than experts who could supervise the entire assessment and collection of taxes. True economy would certainly recommend the employment of trained men, devoted to no other duties.

The inefficiency of the proposed plan is equally obvious. In its last analysis the equalization it suggests would simply be based on the theory that the assessed property should be of the same per acre value as property recently transferred in the same community. Such a theory is worthless. It often happens that a farm which may not have changed hands for generations is worth double as much as a farm recently transferred and im-

mediately adjoining the first. Where the clerks would have no better evidence than this upon which to base their estimates their equalization would be almost farcical. But this plan is equally to be condemned in that it leaves more than half the work undone. Realty taxes are not the only ones unfairly assessed in Virginia. A dozen instances of equally flagrant injustice might be cited, none of which would come within the purview of the present plan. Justice will only be secured when a plan is adopted which will open the way to correct each and every one of these inequalities.

We most sincerely trust that the Finance Committee will not give this proposition its approval. Let us have a board of experts continually employed by the State and empowered not only to see that proper valuations of realty are enforced, but competent to fix valuations for all classes of property. The experience of California, Wisconsin and Vermont has shown that such a commission can be made efficient, economical and of inestimable value to a State.

From Washington comes news of a proposed national league to fight the "food combine" and the high cost of living generally by means of the boycott. The preliminary meeting, held in the national capital, included only some forty persons, but it is proposed ultimately to enlist 1,000,000 families in the fight, all of whom are to agree to buy no foodstuffs at too high a rate. The best trust is selected as the first point of attack, partly on account of the importance of the product it controls, and partly on account of its supposedly peculiar vulnerability. The legality of such a consumers' boycott will not be questioned, since participation in it will be purely voluntary and no coercion of any sort will be used. Moreover the ban is to be laid upon prices, not firms. The great obstacle in the way of the success of such a boycott will lie in the human tendency to ignore and break through it. Beef at high prices will present itself to many people as better than no beef at all. The Federal government must first set the example of fighting trusts through the boycott in barring the American Tobacco Company from Navy Department contracts, and it cannot be said that the government's success was very marked. Some of the trust products were very popular, and the sailors were so set upon their favorite brands that the government tacitly receded from its position. It bought the tobacco products, not from the trust, indeed, but from independent jobbers. The question of success in any popular struggle of the same sort is simply the question whether large numbers of people are willing to go without beef for a time.

He is such a thumping success at the game that we should much like to see Mr. Pierpont Morgan try his hand at merging Speaker Cannon and Victor Murdock. Then, too, there will doubtless be Martian astronomers in 1920 or thereabouts who will deny that we have any canals down here. Those who introduced the resolutions (looking the Interior Department seem to desire not so much an investigation as a vindication of Ballinger. What's the matter with Atlanta? He has discovered in its midst neither Dr. Cook nor Miss De Janor. While there is still some little room up front, it can only be a matter of time before the multiplying congressional investigations will have to fight for standing room.

On days like these, why doesn't the devil skate anyway? The President may or may not be right in his apparent conjecture that the insurgents will sell out for a few instalments of pie.

The hunter Colonel is now seeking a white rhino. Moreover, he will get one, whether such a thing exists or not.

We fail to see that Congress has turned over any new leaves for 1910, not even leaves to print.

"Milk Prices Fixed," says the headline. The people are in luck if the milk isn't fixed, too.

A man once dead stays dead a long time, as Prof. Matt Henson has doubtless observed.

Three aspirants having just withdrawn, there are now only six candidates for the vacant Mississippi senatorship. Mississippi never did care much for public office anyway.

The fogs of London, the ice of Etah, and the sleets of Sleetville, Sleet county, all combined cannot rob Richmond of its international climatic supremacy.

Mayor Gaynor's pen is the pen of a heady writer. His epistolary puzzles make it fair to refer to him as the great incomplete letter writer of his day.

A Monumental Baker. Of all the old bakers since time first began, Cook has 'em all flattered a thousand to one. And through comin' folks never will meet.

A match for the syster-Cook has 'em all beat. His first exhibition was easy enough. In re Mount McKinley he worked off the stuff.

So wonderfully clever, men swallowed it. Encouraged, he called in to fake the North Pole.

The thing had fair promise at first of belief. Some crowned Cook as Arctic explorer the chief.

While others, more cautious, kept wisely aloof. Demanding something more than ex-parte proof.

They asked for a jury of men qualified. To judge observations and then to decide. Whether the explorer had found the north goal. And if they assented, concede Cook the pole.

That he was "deluded," no one will believe. The tale was concocted from first to deceive. His long polar knowledge most clearly de-

luded. Him Charlie's judgment. The fact is, he lies.

Great Club Ananias, rejoice in your luck. Receive and elect him your "Grand Mucky-Muck."

Deceived by all people, no wonder he tries hiding from the vision of all decent eyes.

D. H. KENNEY.

AMERICA leads the World
A pre-eminently in the superiority and skill of her dentists

Dr. Lyon's PERFECT Tooth Powder

has been prepared by an American dentist since 1866. It cleanses, preserves and beautifies the teeth and imparts purity and fragrance to the breath.

Borrowed Jingles

AT THE DRESS GOODS COUNTER.
You're sure it's fast color? How wide, did you tell me?
A full yard? Oh, yes. You're sure you can't feel it?
Ten yards any cheaper than five? Just a minute—
You're certain it hasn't a thread of green in it?
I couldn't wear green, and the light here's a little
Confound it, the threads in it seem rather brittle—
These dyes rot so. Dear me, seems that the sample match is?
Is high light? You sure that six yards will be plenty?
Now, what do you think—does this silk
It has just a pale tinge of blue—do you catch it?
Now, what I was thinking was—well, now
I wonder!
That's not the right sample at all. Such a blunder!
I picked it up just as I left in a hurry. And must have picked up the wrong one!
Such a worry
Is it to do shopping? Now, isn't it frosting?
And just as I thought I was so near getting
Some of that goods to match it! Is this piece as high as
The other? How would this look out on the
You say you have none in the dark blue?
Such a pity.
A dark blue in that would be awfully
What's that piece up there? No, the one just above it!
Voilà! Let it down, please. Oh, I admire it!
I love it!
Now, isn't that sweet? But so light. I was thinking it would be easy to clean without shrinking.
Have you some blue silk near at hand?
Beneath. With that lining of blue I should say it
Would make up just splendidly. You haven't got it?
In red? Why is that? Oh, the red dyes would run.
Too bad. It is just what I wanted. How queerly
It happens you always see something near by. But not quite the color. Well, if it is blue
Is blue and not red, and that is all there is to it.
I guess we'll go back to the first piece. You say it is warranted goods? Oh, yes—this is the store the fall.
Should so. And you think that six yards would be ample?
You're sure of that? Well—you can give me a sample.
—Philadelphia Ledger.

MERELY JOKING.

Only Things Left.
Mr. Rocks (to chauffeur who has lost control of machine): "Can you stop her?"
Chauffeur: "Well, then run her into something cheap."—Chicago News.

After the Quirel.
"I asked him for my lock of hair."
"What then?"
"He sent me back enough locks of hair to make a beautiful set of puffs."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

An Editor's Troubles.
"I suppose it is difficult to please all your readers?"
"It is," admitted the editor of the Plunkville Palladium. "I just received a delegation of ladies who requested me not to print any more starvation statistics on the society page."—Pittsburg Post.

Useless Expense.
She throws away the mistletoe;
A trifling cross
Is she because she says it was
A total loss.

He Had a Reason.
"Why do you want to be a first-nighter at the theatre?"
"Oh, I like to go."
"Got any reason for going on first night?"
"Yes, I have. If you insist on it, I must escape the talkative man who has seen the show."—Houston Chronicle.

As a Substitute.
"Washington wants 100 additional policemen."
"Well."
"Congress wants to give 'em 100 nice new laws instead."—Kansas City Journal.

Mostly Expense.
"That is a fat, prosperous looking envelope. Does our salesman send in a big bundle of them?"
"Not exactly. That envelope contains a receipt for his last check, his expense account for this week, a request for a salary raise, and a requisition for some more expensive account blanks."—Washington Herald.

A Short Flusher.
"How does that young man impress you?"
"Not at all. I never take kindly to a young man who wraps a \$20 bill around his neck and goes about displaying his bank roll."—Detroit Free Press.

THE MERRY MOKERS.

AFTER he has had a few more expatriations in coming his head to the front, William Lorimer may begin to suspect that he is persona n. s. at the White House.—Chicago Tribune.

We have observed that the boldest insured makes less noise in Congress than when traveling that wretched warpath, the Chautauque circuit.—Atholton Globe.

It is already announced that a big river and harbor bill will be introduced in Congress this winter. The statesmen seem bound to have their park.—New York Mail.

Mayor Gaynor promises to be one of the most interesting and original chief magistrates New York City has had since its Dutch Governors.—Philadelphia Record.

One of our contemporaries has discovered that Mr. Taft is a big President. What chance would it have if it should happen that he is persona n. s. at the White House and Court.

If there is any difference in the early samples of the 1910 bills they would appear to be a trifle higher.—Indianapolis News.

The popular New Year resolution in Georgia is "resolved that the prohibition law shall not be taken seriously."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Can't help but wonder if Martians scientists are reporting to each other as to progress at Panama.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Richmond Advertising Agency
Established 1904

RUSSIA SCORNS THE NAME "WHITE"
Odessa Changes the Name of One of Its Streets Because of Japan Treaty.

ART VERSUS MODESTY

Painter Places Heads of Well Known Beauties Upon Shoulders of Nude Figures.

BY LA MARQUISE DE POTENOVY.
THOSE who predict trouble in the near future between Japan and Russia, and who decline to believe in the maintenance of peace between these two powers, will have their impressions in this connection strengthened by the action of the artist at Odessa. In authorizing the city of Odessa to give some other name to a street of that city which until now had borne the name of Count Witte, the authorities conceded in response to an urgent demand by the municipality of this, the commercially most important city of the empire, to have its name changed to that of Count Witte, by means of the treaty of peace which had negotiated with Japan at Portsmouth, N. H., inflicted incalculable injury to the native industry. The name of Count Witte, which was the name of a statesman, but also a painter, which was therein an indication of the real sentiments and projects of Russia, and will more than ever prepare for a renewal of the sanguinary war of five years ago.

Painter's License.

Has an artist any right in a painting portraying some mythological or historical scene, in which there are unflattering figures? Is it his right to paint such a fashion as to resemble well known living personages? That is a question which has arisen again in the city of Odessa. The artist, Gervais, who ornaments the wall facing the entrance of the new Hotel de Paris at Monte Carlo. Nearly every day he is surrounded by a throng of women well known along the Riviera, while the most beautiful woman that has been painted in the past is a painting of a woman, the daughter of George of Greece, whose father, Roland Bonaparte, is one of the proprietors of the gambling establishment at Monte Carlo, and a partner, therefore, of the Prince of Monaco, as well as of Constantinople (Radziwill) and Edmond Blanc, the public gambling table business.

Princess George was brought up, as such care, and even strictness, entirely aloof from the world of temptations, that it is a gross calumny to assert that she ever emulated the conduct of her father, Prince Roland, the lovely Pauline Borghese, the most beautiful of all the sisters of the first Napoleon, when she sat to the artist, and after a long and historic reply, to the effect that the studio had been quite comfortably heated and protected from draughts, when asked whether she had not felt uncomfortable in thus posing for the artist in the costume of Mother Eve before the fall.

Princess George and, above all, her stalwart husband, the most powerful prince of the world, may regret the conduct of the artist in connection with his picture in the Hotel de Paris at Monte Carlo. But, on the other hand, may treat the matter as a compliment for the artist to ever took exception to the conduct of the famous Austrian painter, Hans Makart, who was accustomed to adorn the fair of Vienna with portraits of his paintings, with heads that were portraits of women, not only of the present, but also of the past, and well known in society. He was wont even to complain of being pestered by lovely women of high and low degree to pose for him, and he was not a little surprised when he was informed in his paintings. One of his most famous known pictures is that of Emperor Charles V. entering the city of Antwerp in triumph, and among the beautiful women in the foreground who lead the imperial cortege, and who are entirely undraped, the head of the most beautiful of them, a perfect beauty and acknowledged portrait of Princess Aloys Lichtenstein.

The "Oak Tree" Pension.
Inasmuch as largely through the personal interest of Lord Northcliffe in the case, the death of Mary Elizabeth Withington, who was born in October, 1875, as the only child of the late James Withington's second marriage to Susan Elizabeth Brand, has been definitely established, the Court of Chancery in London has at length given an order for the payment of the perpetual pension of \$250 a year, with arrears since the death of James Withington, to the aged cab-driver, Robert MacLaren, and his equally old wife, who after his death, at the age of 80, complete destitution to relative affluence for the remainder of their lives.

The pension is the half of that annuity which was paid to Mary Withington by Charles II. to old MacLaren's ancestor, Richard Penderel, for having led him from Cromwell's Roundheads after his disastrous defeat at the battle of Worcester, in 1651. Charles, while fleeing from the scene of the battle, was aided by one enemy, who stumbled across Dick Penderel, owner of the farm of Boscombe, who concealed him in one of the old oak trees on the farm. Charles was then aided by Penderel in the now historic oak, and was subsequently assisted by Penderel to reach the coast and the continent in safety.

This perpetual pension of \$500 a year eventually came, through the female line, to James Withington and Robert MacLaren. Robert MacLaren more than forty years ago sold his life interest in his moiety of the pension to a man of the name of George Robinson. Because of time, the pension was lost to James Withington and when MacLaren became a cab-driver, some good people, on learning that his share was a desirable one, had Penderel of Boscombe, interested themselves in his case, and determined to have it restored to him. It was not until 1906 that the pension was restored to him. It is his demise without surviving issue could be established, his moiety of the pension, namely, \$250 a year, would fall to Robert MacLaren.

An extensive search on both sides of the Atlantic was instituted, in which these letters played some part, since James Withington had spent a number of years in the West Indies, and afterwards in this country. It was ascertained that he had had children by both his wives. Then it was found out that he had been drowned, but that his children were still alive. He had been erroneously registered, under a wrong name, at Somerset House, in London. This had to be set right and corrected. Then the fate of his two wives and his children had to be ascertained, and it is only quite recently when it was definitely established that his daughter, Mary, by his second marriage, his last surviving child, had been dead for some years, that the court would consent to give orders for the payment of the Withington moiety of the Penderel pension to Robert MacLaren, who is the Withington branch of the family, and as such, as old Robert MacLaren and his wife have no children, and so far as is known, no heirs, it is probable that the Penderel pension, which has been paid without interruption by the British Treasury every year since its grant by Charles II. to the family of Boscombe, in 1651, will lapse on MacLaren's death.

The Power of One Vote.
Gabriel Hannotaux, academicien and long Minister of Foreign Affairs in

CRYSTAL DOMINO SUGAR
A TRIUMPH IN SUGAR MAKING
Best Sugar for Tea and Coffee
2 lb. and 5 lb. SEALED BOXES.
BY GROCERS EVERYWHERE!

Daily Queries and Answers

Address: all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

Topics for Debating Society.

Will you please tell me in your Query Column some suitable subjects for a young debating society to start out on?
E. R. J.
Debating societies have a habit of discussing questions of altogether abstract interest. The marriage of a year ago some of the stocks questions were: "Resolved, That the pen is mightier than the sword," or "Resolved, That women have done more for civilization than men," or "Resolved, That Alexander the Great was a better general than Napoleon." People are not interested in these things. The debaters as a general rule do themselves little good in discussing them. We would advise you strictly to avoid such questions as these, and to discuss matters which have an immediate, or at least, a direct interest, both to the debaters and the audience. Here are some of the questions that occur to us as being of interest at present: "Resolved, That the General Assembly should call an election on State-wide prohibition." "Resolved, That Richmond should accept Manchester's terms of consolidation." "Resolved, That the good road transportation bill should be given a permanent home in the State appropriations bill." "Resolved, That woman suffrage should be adopted." "Resolved, That the Virginia Bank should establish a central bank." "Resolved, That education should be made compulsory." "Resolved, That Congress should defeat the ship subsidy bill." These are a few of the many questions which you can discuss with interest and profit. We would advise you to require all your debaters to read up on the topic which they propose to discuss.

Dreaming of the Devil.

If a man dreams that he is at the devil what is it a sign of? A. D.
This dream generally means that the dreamer is something of a pessimist, that he does not agree with the world, and sometimes mean that he has an uneasy conscience.

Position as Brakeman.

1. To whom should I apply for a position as brakeman on a passenger train on the Norfolk and Western?
2. Where may I obtain a list of old songs?
3. Address your letter to the superintendent of transportation, Norfolk and Western Railroad, Roanoke, Va.
4. Any music store can furnish you

France, call attention, in his great work, "Contemporary France," just published, to the fact that the present republic owes its existence to one solitary fluke vote, cast on the motion of obscure deputy of the name of Walston, who may justly be regarded as the Father of the Third Republic. The fluke vote has often decided great changes, and the act of settlement of the railroad, and the act of settlement of the House of Commons by a majority of one.

Here in this country, on an election day in 1811, a Rhode Island farmer took so long in releasing a pig from a fence in which it had been caught, that the death of Mary Elizabeth Withington, who was born in October, 1875, as the only child of the late James Withington's second marriage to Susan Elizabeth Brand, has been definitely established, the Court of Chancery in London has at length given an order for the payment of the perpetual pension of \$250 a year, with arrears since the death of James Withington, to the aged cab-driver, Robert MacLaren, and his equally old wife, who after his death, at the age of 80, complete destitution to relative affluence for the remainder of their lives.

STATE PRESS

Dealing Fairly With Assessors.

The real estate assessors, who have just begun their work in this city, should receive the earnest co-operation and aid of our land owners to the end that this year's assessment may be equitable, just and fair to the city and to her people. Let us all resolve to view their work not in a captious spirit, but with a desire to render a difficult and disagreeable task as easy as possible under the circumstances. It is no pleasant undertaking to assess the property of one's neighbors, and the assessors have the right to receive the aid of the land owners in their work. We believe that the assessors now at work have the interest of the city and her people at heart, and we believe they have the best of intentions. We believe that the assessors now at work have the interest of the city and her people at heart, and we believe they have the best of intentions. We believe that the assessors now at work have the interest of the city and her people at heart, and we believe they have the best of intentions.

The Municipal Conference.

It should be clearly understood that the purpose of this conference, which itself was called at the instance of conventions of city representatives from the Virginia cities of Staunton and Richmond, and that are not to request the Assembly to provide for the commission form of government in the cities, nor to suggest any other method of city government, but to suggest the methods of city government as such. As we conceive it, the object of the meeting is to make a suggestion which, if carried out, would remove all doubt of competition, and would place the city in the commission government and similar changes. The hope is ventured that here is an opportunity to take a great step forward, without any reference to party politics. Municipal

these songs. You will find a number of such stores listed in The Times-Dispatch.

Pension for Confederate Widows.

Please inform me if the United States Senate passed a bill, last winter, appropriating \$12 per month for the widows of Confederate veterans.
WIDOW.
No, no such bill was passed in the Senate, and no such bill is likely to pass. The State of Virginia, as you know, gives a small annual pension to the indigent widows of Confederate veterans.

Debts and Legal Tender.

Please inform me through your column whether debtor could proceed to accept any other money than legal tender.
READER.
No. The creditor cannot be made to accept anything other than legal tender. Either in paper money or in silver currency.

Fremont on Virginian.

Will you please tell me to whom I should apply for a position as fireman on the Tidewater Railway? Do they need men?
G. C. M.
Address your letter to the division superintendent, Virginian Railway, Roanoke, Va. We do not know that the Virginian Railway is at present especially in need of firemen. Most railways, however, are always glad to get a competent man.

Kyrle Bellow.

Please tell me whether Kyrle Bellow is an American. How old is he?
X. Y. Z.
Mr. Bellow was born in England, and is fifty-five years of age.

Cardinal Sotillo.

Please give me some facts about Cardinal Sotillo, who is now dying in Rome.
CITIZEN.
Cardinal Francesco Sotillo is one of the four cardinal-bishops and is director of collegiate studies. He is an Italian by birth, is seventy years of age, and was consecrated cardinal-bishop in 1895.

Ex-Governors of Virginia.

How many living ex-Governors of Virginia are there?
CITIZEN.
There are—Governor Wm. Cameron, Governor J. Hoge Tyler, of Bedford, and Governor A. J. Montague, of Richmond. The first of next month will inaugurate the new number in the person of the present Governor, Claude A. Swanson.

Government in Virginia has happily been free from confusion with State politics. Let us hope that the representatives of the cities this week will forget, if possible, the bitter over which the political battle has been made in Virginia, and at the same time so carefully consider, with utmost frankness, how the changes proposed can be formulated so as to exclude in the future the intrusion of State politics as far as it is possible to do. The purpose of the convention is a wise one, and it is to be hoped that it will have an important effect.—Lynchburg Advance.

Surest Method of Municipal Reform.

The one sure way to get the enabling act to get it by constitutional amendment. In spite of the other theories that have been advanced, the one sure way to get the Legislature now has the power to authorize the genuine form of commission government, in which the city is a single body, and the Mayor and all the powers now inherent in the councils, which would be done away with under the new system. There would then be no party machine whose sole business would be to direct the affairs of the city. They would be, in effect, a compact of good will between all the citizens of the city. They would be, in effect, a compact of good will between all the citizens of the city. They would be, in effect, a compact of good will between all the citizens of the city.

Organizing Norfolk's Charity.

There seems to be more or less demand for a "Board of Charities" for Norfolk, and it is certainly a subject that is worth any consideration or discussion that may be given it. It is a subject which should be fully considered before action is taken. The charities of a people or a city can best be employed systematically and organized in a way that will be of benefit to all who have thought or experience on the subject. It also stands without argument that every body desires the extending of charities and the employment of the best possible agencies in carrying on the good work. There are already a number of charitable organizations and agencies at work in Norfolk. Any new organization should contemplate the amalgamation or utilization of these as far as possible rather than become in any sense